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Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Nigeria submitted pursuant to resolution 1624 (2005) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mirjana **Mladineo**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

08-23257 (E) 190208

Annex

Letter dated 5 February 2008 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

I am directed to forward the attached document, which is Nigeria's report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) on additional measures to combat terrorism (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Saidu **Dodo**
for Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Reports of Nigeria on implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)

Paragraph 1

1.1 What measures does Nigeria have in place to prohibit by law and to prevent incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts? What further steps, if any, are under consideration?

The Prevention of Terrorism Bill before the National Assembly contains provisions to prevent incitement to commit terrorist acts. Pending the enactment of the Bill, there are constituent elements of the Criminal and Penal Codes and the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) that deal with incitement to commit offences related to terrorism.

1.2 What measures does Nigeria take to deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts?

Nigeria does not provide safe haven to terrorists or any one found guilty of incitement to commit terrorist act or acts. Such individuals are prevented from entering Nigeria in the first instance through the exchange and sharing of information with other countries. Incitement to commit offences related to terrorism is against the law in Nigeria.

Paragraph 2

1.3 How does Nigeria cooperate with other States in strengthening the security of its international borders with a view to preventing those guilty of incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts from entering their territory, including by combating fraudulent travel documents and, to the extent attainable, by enhancing terrorist screening and passenger security procedures?

Cooperation with neighbouring countries to prevent individuals suspected to be terrorist sympathizers to transit through Nigeria borders.

There has been an increased surveillance at the country's air, land and sea ports. The country has put in place improved technological surveillance and screening procedures in some of its ports of entry and exit.

There has also been increased close monitoring and scrutiny of persons and groups of security interest.

Subregional level in West Africa: (a) Collaborative activities and initiatives between security agencies, especially those aimed at harmonizing the monitoring of transnational criminal groups and activities, such as the proliferation of dangerous weapons and light arms, organized crime and religious extremism. (b) Bilateral and multilateral liaison among security agencies e.g. Nigeria initiated the establishment of the West African Internal Security Conference (WAISEC) with the fight against terrorism and organized crime top on the agenda of the body.

Regional level: Nigeria hosted the Conference of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) during which members signed a

memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening security and intelligence cooperation with the fight against terrorism high on the agenda. (b) Nigeria participates actively in the work of the African Centre for the Study and Research of Terrorism (ACSRT) established by the African Union in Algiers. (c) Nigeria has taken full advantage of its membership of the Trans-Saharan Defence Chiefs conference to promote information/intelligence sharing on the threat and trends of terrorism.

Paragraph 3

1.4 What international efforts is Nigeria participating in or considering participating in/initiating in order to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures?

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Promotion of tolerance, including religious tolerance is one of the **Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy** enshrined in chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999). In this context, the Federal Government uses the media and targeted programmes to promote religious tolerance and dialogue among all faiths and ethnic nationalities. In addition, many States of the Federation have established interfaith committees or groups made up of different religious leaders to promote understanding and tolerance.

1.5 What steps is Nigeria taking to counter incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance and to prevent subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters?

Robust Perception Management and De-radicalization programme is one of the ongoing preventive measures employed by the Government, which has proved to be very effective. The programme uses key communicators, including media, faith-based organizations and NGOs to address some latent issues relating to radicalization of the youth and the dangers of extremism.

Paragraph 4

1.6 What is Nigeria doing to ensure that any measures taken to implement paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of resolution 1624 (2005) comply with all of its obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law?

All measures taken to implement the provisions of paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of resolution 1624 (2005) are in compliance with the rule of law. Measures adopted and actions taken pursuant to implementation are periodically reviewed by the appropriate oversight bodies including the National Assembly, the Judiciary and the National Human Rights Commission in order to ensure compliance with the rule of law.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Abuja
6 December 2007

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 5 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of Israeli violations committed during the month of January 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-23095 (E) 080208 080208

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations committed during January 2008

Air violations					*Land violations*					
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Sea violations*	*Military acts of aggression*	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*	*Overall Total*	*Pervious month's violations*
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare shells, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
22	**18**	**—**	**40**	**4**	**—**	**29**	**—**	**29**	**73**	**89**

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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 5 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 22 to 31 January 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-23101 (E) 080208 080208

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 22 to 31 January, inclusive

Air violations

On 23 January 2008 between 1515 and 1030 hours, an Israeli enemy military aircraft overflew the area of al-Naqurah.

Between 2205 and 2220 hours, two Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b, headed north until they reached the sea off al-Batrun and then departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 2226 and 2355 hours, two Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh, headed north until they reached Juniyah, circled between Juniyah and the South and then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 24 January 2008 between 2000 and 2150 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Kafr Shuba area and the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

On 25 January 2008 between 1509 and 1630, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off al-Damur, circled over the sea off Beirut and then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 27 January 2008 at intervals between 1230 and 1337 hours an Israeli enemy military aircraft overflew the areas of Bint Jubayl and al-Naqurah, at various altitudes.

Between 1945 and 1947 hours, an Israeli enemy military aircraft overflew the Mirwahin area at very high altitude.

On 28 January 2008 between 1000 and 1015 hours, two Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b, reaching as far as the sea over Juniyah, then returned, heading south, and departed over 'Aytarun.

Between 1025 and 1210 hours, two Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace from over al-Naqurah, reaching as far as Juniyah, circled between Juniyah and the south over land and sea and then departed over al-Naqurah.

On 31 January 2008 between 2013 and 2357 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Bayadah, circled over areas of the South and Beirut between land and sea and then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Sea violations

On 27 January 2008 at 2005 hours, at sea off Ras al-Naqurah in occupied Palestinian territorial waters, an Israeli enemy gunboat shone a searchlight for 10 seconds in the direction of a Lebanese fishing boat at a distance of approximately 200 metres north of the line of buoys.

At 2250 hours, at sea off Ras al-Naqurah in occupied Palestinian territorial waters, an Israeli enemy gunboat fired a number of shots in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters.

Field violations

On 24 January 2008 at 1010 hours, three persons in civilian clothing were seen proceeding on foot from the orchards of the Metulla settlement inside the occupied Palestinian territories in the direction of the Lebanese border near Kafr Killa, the Fatima gate. They recorded images of Lebanese territory using video cameras and then departed at 1020 hours in the direction of the said orchards.

On 28 January 2008 at 1940 hours, the Israeli enemy forces directed a searchlight from the Jabal al-Tayyarat outpost by the village of Yarun inside the occupied Palestinian territories for five seconds in the direction of Lebanese army base (LM11) in the village of Yarun.

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Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1787 (2007) (para. 2), I am pleased to inform you that the Counter-Terrorism Committee has considered and endorsed the revised organizational plan for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (see annex and its enclosure). Consistent with that resolution, this plan was submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee by the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

(*Signed*) Mirjana **Mladineo**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

08-23251 (E) 140208

Annex

Letter dated 16 January 2008 from the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

On 10 December 2007 the Security Council adopted resolution 1787 (2007) extending the period of operation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate until 31 March 2008 and requesting the Executive Director, in consultation with Council members, to recommend such changes as he deems appropriate to the organizational plan referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 1535 (2004).

Please find attached herewith a paper outlining the proposed changes to the Executive Directorate's methods of work and organizational plan, which I am recommending in accordance with the request of the Security Council contained in its resolution 1787 (2007) (see enclosure). All members of the Committee have been consulted in the preparation of the paper.

I should be grateful if you would bring the attached paper to the attention of the Committee for its consideration.

(*Signed*) Mike **Smith**
Executive Director
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Enclosure

Organizational plan for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1787 (2007) of 10 December 2007, the Security Council extended the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate until 31 March 2008. Moreover, in paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Council requested the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate, within 60 days of the adoption of this resolution and in consultation with Council members, to recommend such changes as he deems appropriate to the organizational plan referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 1535 (2004). The present paper, which is submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in response to that request, contains recommendations for changes to the methods of work and organizational plan of the Executive Directorate.

Priorities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

2. The organizational plan of the Executive Directorate, endorsed by the Security Council (see S/2004/642), identified the priorities of the Executive Directorate as follows:

(a) To ensure the collection of information for monitoring the efforts of Member States in their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), including through visits with the consent of the State concerned;

(b) To strengthen the facilitation of technical assistance aimed at increasing the capabilities of Member States in the fight against terrorism and ensuring that its provision is adjusted to the countries' needs;

(c) To enhance cooperation and coordination among international, regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism, as well as among other United Nations bodies;

(d) To ensure consistency among all the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee while maintaining a tailored approach to each State Member of the United Nations and with regard to every subject under resolution 1373 (2001);

(e) To provide adequate and complete follow-up of all the Committee's decisions;

(f) To ensure the correct exchange of information at the proper level, from the Offices (Assessment and Technical Assistance Office and Information and Administrative Office), the Executive Directorate itself and between the latter and other relevant bodies of the United Nations.

3. Over the three years since the adoption of the original organizational plan, those core priorities have remained essentially the same and should continue to guide the work of the Executive Directorate. However, in order to reflect the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1624 (2005), the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in its resolution 60/288, and the evolution in its own thinking on counter-terrorism, the Committee may wish to consider adding the following two priorities:

(a) To continue providing necessary support for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with Member States on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) that would help them to enhance their capacity, including through spreading best practices and promoting exchange of information in this regard;

(b) To participate actively in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force established to assist Member States in their implementation of the Global Strategy.

4. Furthermore, in accordance with the policy guidance adopted by the Committee on 25 May 2006, the Executive Directorate should also continue to advise the Committee on issues relating to international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law in connection with the identification and implementation of effective measures to implement resolution 1373 (2001), as well as on ways to ensure that any measures taken by Member States to implement the provisions of resolution 1624 (2005) comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

Key activities and principal tools

5. In its efforts to serve and advise the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Executive Directorate has carried out the following key activities and developed the following basic tools:

(a) Conducting dialogue with Member States on their implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), including through selected visits and, as appropriate, the identification of technical assistance needs;

(b) Developing the preliminary implementation assessment as the primary tool for assessing countries' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and drafting a total of 193 such assessments (one for each Member State, plus one for a non-member State);

(c) Preparing an annual global assessment (implementation survey), on the basis of the preliminary implementation assessments, to help the Committee identify particular gaps and general trends;

(d) Developing the website of the Counter-Terrorism Committee containing, inter alia, the technical assistance matrix and the directory of best practices;

(e) Maintaining close, collaborative and cooperative relations with other United Nations bodies working in the area of counter-terrorism, in particular the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the other members of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

6. The Executive Director further proposes that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate should give greater priority to three additional activities, which have become critical to achieving the overall objectives of the Committee and the Executive Directorate and whose importance was specifically

noted in the Committee's comprehensive review of the Executive Directorate in December 2006 (see S/2006/989):

- Developing a comprehensive strategy to engage with donors active in the counter-terrorism field and match their capabilities with the needs of recipient countries, as a way to enhance its capacity to facilitate technical assistance and to find innovative ways to follow up on technical assistance requests in order to ensure an appropriate response.
- Implementing a more proactive communications strategy with a view to enhancing understanding of the role of the Committee and the Executive Directorate in the counter-terrorism field. This strategy would be targeted, primarily and most importantly, at Member States. However, it would also be targeted at international organizations, universities, think-tanks and the general public.
- Developing new mechanisms and practices to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between the Executive Directorate and the experts of the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004), including in the context of their common involvement in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate should also work to strengthen its relations with regional and subregional organizations, which can play a valuable role in providing political support, local knowledge and constructive follow-up to the activities of the Executive Directorate in the field.

Proposed modifications to the working methods of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

7. In order to bring greater consistency and conformity of judgement to all documents prepared for the Committee, cross-cluster mechanisms will be established to focus on the different technical fields addressed by resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and a quality control unit will be established to review all documents prior to their release.

8. Secondly, in accordance with the proposal made by the Committee in the aforementioned comprehensive review of the Executive Directorate, the Executive Director proposes that the system for visiting Member States should be made more flexible in order to allow for tailored and focused visits to countries in all regions. This increased flexibility should bring efficiencies to the work of the Executive Directorate by allowing it, in its interaction with Member States, to focus on issues of the highest priority to the Committee and to the country concerned. It should also enable the Committee to engage directly with a significantly greater number of countries each year.

9. It is therefore proposed that the Committee, while continuing the existing practice of conducting full assessment missions to certain countries, where this is particularly appropriate or where it is requested, should consider conducting the following types of visit, in accordance with appropriate guidance, in the case of most Member States:

(a) A focused visit to evaluate and advise on one or two priority aspects of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) (for example, border security and

document fraud, among others) that have been highlighted in a review of the country's preliminary implementation assessment;

(b) A focused visit to a particular region or subregion identified as suffering from a certain common vulnerability. This might involve short visits to several capitals in succession or the organization of a subregional meeting in one central location which could be attended by the relevant officials of several neighbouring countries;

(c) A focused visit to a country that has a particular strength that might be replicated in other countries, whether through the provision of technical assistance or through inclusion of the strength in the directory of best practices;

(d) An advocacy visit by the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee or the Executive Director (or both), perhaps accompanied by one or more members of the Committee, aimed at raising general awareness of the terrorist threat and focusing high-level political attention, within the Government or Parliament concerned, on the importance of implementing resolution 1373 (2001) (for example, through adoption/passage of counter-terrorism legislation);

(e) A follow-up visit to a country previously assessed aimed at evaluating progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Committee;

(f) In addition to the formal visits proposed above, the experts of the Executive Directorate should take advantage of ad hoc opportunities to engage in dialogue with relevant government officials when visiting or transiting countries in the context of multilateral meetings. This would help build dialogue, develop networks and address issues arising from the preliminary implementation assessments in a more practical and less rigid manner;

(g) Participation of an expert of the Executive Directorate in a visit organized by another relevant technical agency, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, in order to help identify counter-terrorism technical assistance needs in that country and facilitate the provision of such assistance. This would be a cost-effective way to strengthen implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

Outline of the revised operational structure of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

10. The Executive Director recommends the following changes to the management structure of the Executive Directorate, aimed at improving cross-cluster communication, bringing greater rigour and consistency to the documents and reports prepared by the Executive Directorate, and generally making the Executive Directorate more dynamic, effective and responsive to the Committee.

11. The basic structure of the Executive Directorate, including the number and level of its staff, would remain unchanged. The proposed revised operational structure and the corresponding responsibilities are as follows:

A. Executive Director

12. The Executive Director and his Office will continue to have responsibility for the overall direction of the Executive Directorate, as well as particular responsibility for:

- Relations with the Counter-Terrorism Committee
- Relations with other parts of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General and his Office, and the other subsidiary Security Council bodies operating in the field of counter-terrorism
- Engagement of the Executive Directorate with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

B. Assessment and Technical Assistance Office

13. The Head of the Assessment and Technical Assistance Office, in addition to serving as the Deputy Executive Director and managing the Office, will have special responsibility for the following:

- Donor relations and strategies for engaging with donors (countries, regional organizations and international organizations)
- Consistency of assessments through oversight of the new cross-cutting technical groups

C. Geographical clusters

14. The three existing geographical clusters (A, B and C) will remain unchanged and continue to constitute the basic management structure within the Assessment and Technical Assistance Office. In addition to managing the work of the respective cluster and contributing to Executive Directorate-wide assessments, each cluster leader will be responsible, in particular, for:

- Developing and managing regional and/or subregional strategies in their areas of responsibility
- Reviewing preliminary implementation assessments and conducting dialogues with countries on the basis of the preliminary implementation assessments
- Identifying priority countries for future visits, including the proposed nature and focus of such visits

D. Technical groups and units

15. The major change in the operational structure of the Executive Directorate will be the creation of five cross-cutting technical groups. Designed as an internal mechanism to enhance expertise and consistency and contribute to the principal work activities of the Executive Directorate, these groups will be established initially in the following functional areas:

- Technical assistance
- Terrorist financing
- Border security, arms trafficking and law enforcement
- General legal issues, including legislation, extradition and mutual legal assistance
- Issues raised by resolution 1624 (2005); as well as the human rights aspects of counter-terrorism in the context of resolution 1373 (2001)

16. The technical groups, each of which will include members of all three clusters, will discuss and agree upon common standards and approaches in their respective fields; exchange ideas on new developments and technologies where relevant; develop proposals for revised methodologies as necessary; and lead periodic discussions or briefings within the Executive Directorate in their respective areas (for example, terrorist financing, arms trafficking and human rights, among others). The coordinators of each group will be staff members having particular expertise in the relevant technical field, and not generally cluster leaders. All groups will report to the Head of the Assessment and Technical Assistance Office.

17. There will clearly be many linkages between the different groups and considerable overlap in some areas (for example, technical assistance and human rights could be said to be relevant to all groups, as indeed could the topic of legislation, which normally falls into the group dealing with general legal issues). For this reason, the groups will operate flexibly and will draw other staff of the Executive Directorate into their deliberations as necessary (including experts of the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999)). Additionally, there will be regular meetings of the whole Office at which coordinators will outline the progress in their work to allow broader discussion and ensure that there is appropriate cross-communication with the other groups.

18. The technical assistance group, in view of its fundamental importance to the work of the Executive Directorate, will be led by the Chief of Branch of the Assessment and Technical Assistance Office and will include among its membership all three cluster leaders. This group will review the existing strategies and mechanisms for facilitating technical assistance and refine them with a view to strengthening the contribution of the Executive Directorate in this area. It will also develop improved methodologies to record the impact of the Executive Directorate in the technical assistance field.

19. The establishment of the group on resolution 1624 (2005) and the human rights aspects of counter-terrorism will, firstly, enable the Executive Directorate to contribute to the Committee's consideration of how it might assist Member States to address issues such as incitement to terrorism and the inter-cultural dialogues raised by resolution 1624 (2005). Secondly, it responds to the concern expressed by the Committee on many occasions, including in its comprehensive review of the Executive Directorate (see S/2006/989), and by the Security Council, most recently in its resolution 1787 (2007), that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, and should adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

20. In addition to ensuring a harmonized approach to the assessment of human rights issues across all clusters, this group will consider ways in which the Committee might more effectively encourage Member States to comply with their international obligations in this area.

21. The Executive Director also proposes to establish the following two new units:

- A quality control unit, tasked with reviewing all documents prior to their leaving the Executive Directorate with a view to ensuring consistency of style, format and language.

- A public communications and outreach unit, which will be responsible for developing an active programme of engagement with Member States, international organizations, relevant research institutions and civil society, as appropriate. This unit will seek to coordinate its activities with other relevant Security Council bodies.

E. Information and Administrative Office

22. The functions and staffing of the Information and Administrative Office will remain unchanged. The Head of the Office will therefore remain responsible for:

- Financial and management issues
- The communications strategy of the Executive Directorate and oversight of the public communications and outreach unit
- Oversight of the quality control unit

Staffing issues

23. Overall, the proposals contained in this paper do not require additional staff or a significant budget adjustment. However, three longer-term staffing issues will need to be addressed by the appropriate body sooner or later, and are worth noting at this time:

(a) When the Executive Directorate was established, the Committee decided that all its staff (with the exception of permanent staff members of the United Nations) would be designated as external to the Organization. The aim of this decision was to ensure that the Executive Directorate would be able to retain the expertise and institutional knowledge it would acquire during its initial period of operation by making it difficult for staff to move elsewhere in the Organization. However, after three years it is clear that the Executive Directorate would in fact benefit from greater movement among its Professional staff members as the balance of its work shifts away from advocating new legislative measures in Member States to helping them improve their implementation of existing laws. The majority of the Executive Directorate Professional staff are Legal Officers. Increasingly, however, the Executive Directorate will require officers with more specific technical expertise (for example, in fields such as aviation and maritime security, law enforcement, prosecution, terrorist financing and customs). Removing the external designation given to existing staff recruited from outside the Organization would enable them to apply for positions elsewhere in the Secretariat and encourage greater flow-through of staff. This issue will be raised with the Secretary-General and pursued in the context of the outcome of the current review of 100-series contracts, which is likely to be completed within the next couple of months;

(b) While action in accordance with paragraph (a) above would gradually help address the need to change the mix of expertise within the Executive Directorate, this would necessarily take time. In order to address this in the short term, it may be necessary for the Executive Directorate to seek authority, on a case-by-case basis, to second technical experts from relevant international technical organizations, regional and subregional organizations and possibly, in certain well-defined circumstances, from Member States (in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, notably resolutions 51/243 and 52/234). Highly technical attachments, ideally carried out for relatively short periods such as

6 to 12 months, would enhance the expertise of the Executive Directorate, particularly if its visits were to become more focused, and would also help strengthen links with counter-terrorism agencies in Member States;

(c) While the Executive Directorate has a formal organizational staffing establishment of 28 Professional and 8 General Service staff members, this has been augmented, since its establishment in 2005, through the addition of one senior staff member (P-5) and three junior Professional staff members (P-1 and P-2). These officers have performed vital support work for the Office of the Executive Director and for the three geographical clusters. It is therefore proposed that, when the budget of the Executive Directorate is next considered, in November 2008, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly should be requested to regularize this ad hoc arrangement by adding the three junior positions to the staffing complement of the Executive Directorate. The P-5 position, which is not currently filled, would be allowed to lapse.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues with its brutal aggression and its war crimes against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Since Tuesday, 5 February 2008, Israel, the occupying Power has killed at least 16 Palestinians, mainly in the occupied Gaza Strip. In addition, scores of civilians have also been injured by Israeli occupying forces, many of them seriously.

In the early hours of today, 7 February 2008, Israeli occupying forces, backed by war planes and armoured tanks, fired rockets onto a group of 70 students and employees at a school in the town of Beit Hanoun. This vicious attack killed a schoolteacher and several children were also injured, two of them seriously. Moreover, in the Jabaliya refugee camp, also in northern Gaza, Israeli occupying forces extrajudicially killed six Palestinians, including two brothers, by firing more than six rockets from a drone. It is important to highlight that these attacks and Israel's continuation of its illegal policy of extrajudicial executions come at the heels of the vicious killings of more than nine Palestinians by Israeli occupying forces over the past couple of days.

The deaths of Palestinian civilians have not been the only crimes committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power. In this regard, Israel, the occupying Power, has further tightened its strangulation of the civilian population in Gaza through the sealing of all border crossings, which has obstructed the delivery of the most human necessities, including food and medicine. Moreover, the occupying Power's cutting back of fuel and electricity to the 1.5 million civilians in the Gaza Strip was set to escalate today. Such illegal measures of collective punishment, which will institute rolling blackouts of up to eight hours a day in most areas of Gaza, will have a grave impact on the hospitals in Gaza, water-pumping stations, sewage-treatment facilities, and other civilian infrastructure that is essential for the well-being of the Gaza population. Moreover, this decision by the

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Israeli Government clearly violates yet another basic principle of international humanitarian law which prohibits the occupying Power from attacking or withholding objects that are essential to the survival of the civilian population.

Moreover, Israel, the occupying Power, also continues to make military incursions and carry out attacks against Palestinian civilians and their properties in the West Bank. Yesterday, 6 February 2008, Israeli occupying forces entered the West Bank cities and towns of Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Qalqiliya and Hebron and illegally detained and arrested more than 10 Palestinians. They were then transferred to an undisclosed area. On the same day, Israeli bulldozers demolished a Palestinian home belonging to the Al-Masri family in the Old City in Occupied East Jerusalem. As a result of Israel's illegal demolition, 30 people who lived in the demolished home have now been rendered homeless. Israel's use of house demolitions is a blatant violation of international law, and constitutes collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population. Moreover, it can be perceived only as another means for Israel to further its expansionist objectives and continue with its illegal settlement campaign in Occupied East Jerusalem.

We continue to call on the international community to uphold international law and shoulder its responsibilities and compel Israel to scrupulously abide by its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which is applicable to all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, will only continue to reach more shocking and alarming levels if Israel continues with its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian civilian population. The international community must call on Israel to lift its condemnable siege of the Gaza Strip and to lift all closures and open all crossings to allow for humanitarian access to reach the Palestinian civilian population. Silence by the international community will result only in increased human suffering and rising causalities which will only further threaten the fragile peace process which was revived in November. It is our hope that the international community will take all measures to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring in this regard.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 307 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 21 January 2008 (A/ES-10/411–S/2008/35), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deep regret to inform you that at least 31 more Palestinian civilians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,954. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to this letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Tuesday, 22 January 2008, to Thursday, 7 February 2008)

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

1. Mahmoud Al-Ghandour

Wednesday, 23 January 2008

2. Yahya Suleiman Al-Bayyouk
3. Mahmoud Al-Qerm
4. Ismail Ahmad Al-Attar
5. Ahmad Abu Hantash

Friday, 25 January 2008

6. Raja Abdel Aal
7. Ibrahim Al-Absi
8. Sami Al-Hamayda
9. Mohammad Abu Harb
10. Mahmoud Awad (18 years of age)
11. Mohammad Fat'hi Sabarneh
12. Mahmoud Khalil Sabarneh

Monday, 28 January 2008

13. Qusai Al-Afandi (17 years of age)

Monday, 4 February 2008

14. Ammar Zakarneh
15. Ahmad Abu Zaid

Tuesday, 5 February 2008

16. Bakr Abu Rijal
17. Mahmoud Abu Taha
18. Ahmad Mosabah
19. Mo'ataz Abu Shahla
20. Mohammad Abu Saa'da
21. Osama Abu Saa'da
22. Raa'fat Qudaih
23. Abdel Nasser Abu Tair
24. Wafi Abu Youssef

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,954.

Thursday, 7 February 2008

25. Hani Na'eem
26. Mahmoud Al-Motawwaq
27. Sa'ed Nabhan
28. Jawdat Nabhan
29. Osama Assaf
30. Hammouda Al-Shorafa
31. Ahmad Abu Humaid

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Agenda items 16 and 20

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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comments of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the recent statements by the Foreign Minister of Armenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the comments were distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16 and 20, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the recent statements by the Foreign Minister of Armenia

19 December 2007

After the Madrid meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Armenian Government officials started aggressively pursuing propaganda to misrepresent the peace talks on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict, attempting to mislead both the domestic and the international public on the substance of the talks.

It is a clear indication of a pre-election hysteria to delude the Armenian people, nevertheless requiring a clear response and clarifications to avoid any misinterpretations.

The talks are built on the clear stance of the full restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty over all the occupied Azerbaijani territories and return of the displaced people ethnically cleansed by the Armenian State to their lands of origin, including the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan does not negotiate its territorial integrity and never will.

At the same time, Azerbaijan has always demonstrated its very good will through the search for every opportunity to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and we do not believe that diplomatic options are exhausted.

Armenia, on the contrary, through continued military aggression, demonstrates its unchanged policy of the use of force, which is intolerable. Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations gives a full right of self-defence if an armed attack occurs. We see a paradox when the aggressor State Armenia surpasses a victim of aggression, Azerbaijan, in military expenditure as a percentage of GDP: 4.3 versus 3.8. Besides, Armenia has heavily militarized separatists in Nagorno Karabakh.

Azerbaijan values the position of the international community, which has unequivocally supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan through the adoption of resolutions, statements and decisions, on both State and international organization levels, and we strongly believe that propaganda by Armenian officials will ring another alarm bell about the real intentions of the Government of Armenia.

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Security Council
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Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 17 December 2007 (A/62/590-S/2007/745), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 5 December 2007 to 30 January 2008, as follows:

On 5 December 2007, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 7 December 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 11 December 2007, two F-16 and four Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 12 December 2007, two F-16, two CN-235, two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 17 December 2007, two F-16, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 18 December 2007, two CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 19 December 2007, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

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On 25 December 2007, one F-16 and two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations once and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 26 December 2007, two B-200 and three Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 27 December 2007, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 2 January 2008, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 6 January 2008, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 7 January 2008, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice.

On 8 January 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 9 January 2008, two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 13 January 2008, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 14 January 2008, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 15 January 2008, six F-16 and twelve F-4 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations four times, and two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 16 January 2008, two C-130 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 22 January 2008, two C-160 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 23 January 2008, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice, and two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 30 January 2008, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice, and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated the international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the aforementioned violations and call for their immediate cessation. I would like to stress that Turkey by its irresponsible actions not only gravely violates international law and international rules, but also puts at risk the safety of international civil aviation in the region.

Turkey, a country that has aspirations to take a non-permanent seat in the Security Council next year, systematically attempts to undermine the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Cyprus by promoting an illegal secessionist entity, arrogating to itself, inter alia, the right to interfere in part of the sovereign airspace of Cyprus. This gravely jeopardizes the atmosphere of trust and confidence that should prevail between the two sides in order to resume negotiations and provides once again evidence of Turkey's precise political aim, which is to consolidate the division of the island and maintain its presence in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**